

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Product and Industry Standards in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 822,241 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 15,006 tons or 2% below the 2003-2004 reported tonnage of 837,247 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2004-2005 was 567,786 tons which is a decrease of 32,499 tons or 5% below the farm use tonnage for 2003-2004 of 600,285. Non-farm use tonnage for 2004-2005 was 254,454 tons which is an increase of 17,492 tons or 6% above the 2003-2004 reported tonnage of 236,962.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 518,374 tons sold during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This is an increase of 30,942 tons or 6% above fiscal year 2003-2004 reported tonnage of 487,432.